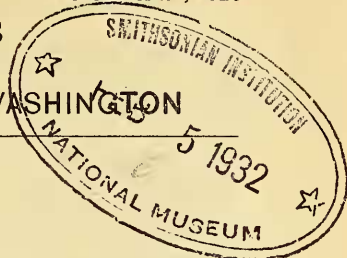


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



ON SOME COCCINELLIDAE OF THE TRIBE TEL-
SIMIINI, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW
SPECIES.

BY EDWARD A. CHAPIN.

The investigations upon which this paper is based were undertaken in order to determine specifically two small black coccinellids which are proving to be valuable predators on diaspine scales. One of them is from the island of Guam, where it feeds extensively on the cocoanut scale, *Aspidiotus destructor* Sign.; the other, originally from Foochow, China, has been introduced into California as an enemy of diaspine scales infesting citrus fruits.

The tribe *Telsimiini* may be defined as follows: small pubescent Coccinellidae having the epistoma broadly explanate, the lateral extensions of which partially bisect the eyes and having but five visible abdominal sternites. Their nearest relatives are the *Platynaspini*, which are pubescent and have six visible sternites and the *Chilocorini*, which are glabrous.

In the descriptions given below it has seemed advisable to note, in addition to the length and breadth, a third dimension designated as altitude. This is the vertical measurement of the elytra only, without reference to the body proper. By comparing this measurement with the breadth or length, an index of the convexity of the species is obtained.

Telsimia Casey.

Telsimia Casey, 1899, Journ. New York Ent. Soc., Vol. 7, p. 165.

Lipernes Blackburn, 1889, Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia, Vol. 11, p. 212 (nec. *Lipernes* Waterhouse).

Notolipernes Blackburn, 1900, Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia, Vol. 24, p. 68 (new name for *Lipernes* Blackburn).

Platynaspis Weise, 1900, Deutsch. Ent. Zeit., Vol. 44, p. 422 (nec. *Platynaspis* Redtenbacher).

As will be shown later in this paper, this genus is distinct from *Boschalis* Weise but is the same as Blackburn's *Notolipernes*. Blackburn in 1889 proposed the new genus *Lipernes* for a new species of Coccinellidae from

Port Lincoln, *Lipernes angulatus*, comparing it with the genus *Pharus* Muls. and *Bucolus* Muls. Both of these genera belong in another tribe. Three other Australian species were added to the genus by the same author in the next decade. In 1900, realizing that *Lipernes* was preoccupied, Blackburn proposed as a substitute name *Notolipernes*, not recognizing the fact that the same genus had been described and named the year before by Casey. There are two species of "*Notolipernes*" in the Museum collection. One of these is represented by a single specimen taken at Toowoomba, Queensland by Albert Koebele. This is one of two specimens, the other having been sent to Blackburn who retained the specimen and returned the name "*Lipernes subviridis* Bleckb." The other species is represented by a series of nineteen specimens, seven from Gosford, four from Paramatta, three from Sydney and five with only the locality Australia. There is no doubt that two species are indicated and either fits the short description given by Blackburn. Since Blackburn did not personally examine the Toowoomba specimen and since the other specimens are in part from the type locality of *L. subviridis* Bleckb. I prefer to attach the name *Telsimia subviridis* (Bleckb.) to the second lot and hold the single Toowoomba specimen as belonging to an unknown species. Neither of these two species has any characteristic of generic value by which it might be separated from *Telsimia tetrastica* Casey, the type species of *Telsimia*.

The species of *Telsimia* discussed in this paper may be separated by means of the following key.

1. Pronotum conspicuously more coarsely and densely punctured at the sides; metacoxal arcs complete, the metacoxal lines meeting the anterior margin of the sternite a short distance in from the lateral margin.....*subviridis* (Bleckb.).
Pronotum evenly and finely punctured over its entire surface; metacoxal arcs incomplete.....2.
2. Form subhemispherical; second, third and fourth sternites each with a single row of large punctures.....*ceylonica* (Weise).
Form convex; sternites less coarsely and more densely and irregularly punctured.....3.
3. Posterior margin of fifth abdominal sternite of male feebly bisinuate, metasternum with a short, median, finely-impressed line running forward from the posterior margin, metasternum rather coarsely and evenly punctured.....*nigra* (Weise).
Posterior margin of fifth sternite of male not bisinuate, metasternum without median impressed line.....4.
4. Fifth sternite of male simple, metasternum finely and sparsely punctured, metacoxal arcs fail to reach lateral margin..... *nitida* Chpn.
Fifth sternite of male semi-circularly emarginate at apex, metasternum moderately coarsely and evenly punctured, metacoxal arcs reach lateral margins..... *emarginata* Chpn.

***Telsimia ceylonica* (Weise).**

Platymaspis ceylonica Weise, 1900, Deutsch. Ent. Zeit., Vol. 44, p. 422.

There is a single specimen in the collection, taken by Koebele in Ceylon, which I refer to this species. It differs from Weise's description only in the intensity of the pale coloration of the abdomen and epipleurae of the elytra.

This species is shorter and more globose than any other member of the genus known to me and the metasternum is noticeably more convex. The punctation of the metasternum is coarse but sparse, especially so posteriorly. The spaces enclosed by the metacoxal arcs are impunctate, the median portion of the first sternite nearly so. The metacoxal arcs run parallel to the posterior margin of the sternite and attain the lateral margin. The dimensions of the specimen before me are: length, 1.55 mm.; breadth, 1.25 mm.; altitude, .70 mm.

Telsimia nigra (Weise).

Pentilia nigra Weise, 1879, Deutsch. Ent. Zeit., Vol. 23, p. 149.

Platynaspis nigra (Weise), Weise, 1900, Deutsch. Ent. Zeit., Vol. 44, p. 422.

The Museum collection contains fourteen specimens of this species, eight of which are from the type locality (Nagasaki) and fit the original description in all particulars except for a slight variation in the intensity of the pale coloration of the sides of the pronotum.

The pubescence of the upper surface is, with the exception of the hairs on the explanate margin of the epistoma, grayish white. The epistomal hairs are tinged with yellow. Beneath, the pubescence of the insect is depressed and quite inconspicuous. The thorax and abdomen are rather densely set with punctures which are much more coarse than those on the dorsum. The metacoxal arcs are as in *T. ceylonica* (Ws.). The areas enclosed by the arcs and the narrow hind margin of the metasternum between the hind coxae are almost impunctate. The terminal sternite of the male is feebly bisinuate and carries a shallow median depression before the apex. A typical example has the following dimensions: length, 1.85 mm.; breadth, 1.50 mm.; altitude, .70 mm. The length of the type specimen as given in the original description is two-thirds of a line. This is corrected in the later reference to seven-eighths of a line or roughly 2 mm.

Telsimia nitida, n. sp.

Form elliptical, one-third longer than wide. Black, under parts very dark piceous, antennae, trophi and legs castaneous. Head, except epistoma, very finely and rather densely punctured, sparsely pubescent with short gray to golden hairs. Explanate margin of the epistoma almost impunctate, broadly but shallowly emarginate anteriorly. Pronotum short, conspicuously and broadly angulate in front of the scutellum, base narrowly margined, punctures very fine, rather dense, evenly distributed over the entire surface. Pubescence gray, moderately dense, more conspicuous toward the lateral margins which are narrowly explanate. Elytral punctation and pubescence similar to that of the pronotum, basal and sutural margins plain, lateral margin finely beaded. Under parts of thorax finely and not densely punctured, the posterior median area of the metasternum almost impunctate. Median area of first sternite and rest of sternites

more coarsely and densely punctured than the sterna of thorax, lateral portions of first sternite and narrow posterior margin of the same segment smooth and virtually impunctate. Metacoxal arcs fail to reach the lateral margins of the sternite by a short distance and are turned slightly anteriorly at their extremities. Femora sparsely and rather finely punctured.

Male.—The posterior margin of the fourth sternite is broadly arcuate, the median portion of the arc almost straight. The fifth sternite is evenly rounded and bears a very shallow median depression before the apex.

Female.—The posterior margins of all sternites except the fifth are straight, the fifth is similar to that of the male but lacks the median depression.

Dimensions: Length, 1.60 mm.; breadth, 1.20 mm.; altitude, .65 mm.

Described from a male specimen (type) and a series of forty-five specimens of both sexes (paratypes) collected on the island of Guam by Edwards, Evans, Fulloway and Vandenberg.

Type and paratypes: U. S. National Museum, No. 40,133.

Telsimia emarginata, n. sp.

Form ovate, five-eighths longer than wide, more strongly tapering posteriorly than anteriorly. Black, antennae, trophi and legs castaneous. Upper surface, with the exception of the smooth margin of the epistoma, finely and densely punctured. Pubescence gray, dense, short and depressed, evenly distributed. Prosternum coarsely and densely punctured, metasternum more finely and less densely punctured, the punctation more dense toward the lateral margins. First abdominal sternite rather finely and sparsely punctured, metacoxal arcs strongly defined, their outer halves parallel to the posterior margin of the segment almost to the lateral margin where the line is turned posteriorly for a short distance. Areas enclosed by the arcs with a few punctures on the posterior halves. Second and succeeding sternites densely and finely punctured. Femora finely and sparsely punctured.

Male.—The posterior margin of the fourth abdominal sternite is straight. The fifth sternite is twice as long as the fourth and bears at the apex a semi-circular emargination. Just anteriorly to the emargination and on either side of the median line there is a slightly tumid area.

Female.—The posterior margin of the fourth sternite is straight, as in the male. The fifth sternite is rounded behind.

Dimensions: length, 2.25 mm.; breadth, 1.40 mm.; altitude, .75 mm.

Described from a male specimen (type) and a series of thirty-six specimens of both sexes (paratypes) collected at Foochow, China, by F. Silvestri and forwarded to the National Museum by H. Compere of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, Calif. Four of the paratypes have been dissected and mounted in balsam by H. S. Barber.

Type and paratypes: U. S. National Museum, No. 40,134.

Boschalis Weise.

Boschalis Weise, 1897, Deutsch. Ent. Zeit., Vol. 41, p. 304; 1903, Arkiv Zool., Vol. 1, p. 58.

Apparently Weise was in error in suppressing *Telsimia* Csy. as a synonym of *Boschalis* Ws., for the characters given for the latter genus in the original description are quite different from those which I find in the type specimen of *Telsimia tetrastica* Csy., the type species of *Telsimia*. In the first place, the elytra are very obviously pubescent in *Telsimia*; they are glabrous in *Boschalis*. The prosternum is moderately long, is horizontal, and extends broadly in front of the anterior coxae in *Telsimia*; in *Boschalis* the median portion is quadrate and anteriorly it is strongly deflexed. Antennal grooves are absent from the prosternum in *Telsimia*; they are present in *Boschalis*.

On the other hand, Weise has included at least two species of *Telsimia* in *Platynaspis*: *T. nigra* (Ws.) and *T. ceylonica* (Ws.), from which I must conclude that he had a totally wrong conception of Casey's genus.